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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts fo purification with to have rejected articles returned wast in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

#### Lemon Juice or Boiled Water in Preventing Typhoid?

The press of the United States, in a resent despatch emanating from Chicago, states that the Health Department of that typhoid centre, after careful experiments extending over three days, had discovered that " lemon juice kills typhoid." This may or may not be true. Three days is a very brief period in which to demonstrate a scientific fact. The announcement is probably premature. The improved David Crockett maxim, which is " be sure you are right, then sit sown and think it over," might serve a good purpose as a motto upon the walls of the chamber in the Health Department's office.

Unless based upon a positive demonstration, this announcement is fraught with great danger. Even should lemon Julos be capable of destroying the germ of typhoid fever, but few can afford the costly preventive. The poor would still have to look elsewhere for a prophylactic. Fortunately, they have it, for the cheapest, simplest and safest way to prevent lever is to drink only water which has been

If the Chicago Board of Health, or the responsible authorities in that or every other community which is supplied with polluted water, would see to it that the heads of families were impressed with the importance of this measure they would come nearer fulfilling their obligalon to the public. The health inspectors hould go from house to house warning he inmates of the danger threatening, and should show them how to avoid it.

There is not a single sound objection b drinking boiled water, for it has lost o nutritive value, and any unpleasant laste which it may have is due to the het that it is either boiled or afteryard stored in an unclean or unsuitable reseel. It is preferable to boil the water ha kettle lined with porcelain or enamel. but when this is not convenient, the suestion of taste should not be considered when compared to the absolute safety which is secured by using pure water. There is no other sure method of doing away with typhoid fever and the sooner the human family realizes this fact the

#### The Wreck on the Grand Trunk

The inquest, which began last Monday. into the cause of the frightful wrech the Grand Trunk Railway at Wanstead, wherein twenty-eight persons were killed and as many more injured, reveals not only startling proof of the carelessness shown by the man or men responsible for the accident, but serves also to emphasize again the need of some change in the present system of train despatching. Sifting the evidence taken at this preliminary investigation, it is found that the wreck occurred through the failure of the operator at Watford to hear one word, namely, the word " may," alleged to have been sent by the de spatcher.

The facts in the case are these; press train No. 5 was proceeding westward from London, bound for Sarnia. while the freight train with which i collided was going eastward toward Lendon. Before the express reached Watford, a station east of Wanstead, the despatcher instructed the Watford operator to display his signal and hold No. 5 for orders. Immediately afterward the operator at Wyoming, situated some fifteen miles west of Watford and about five miles west of Wanstead, was told to hold the freight. Thereupon an order was sent simultaneously to the express at Watford and the freight at Wyoming to pass each other at Wanstead.

A little later the operator at Wyoming reported to the despatcher that the freight was slow in getting away, and the Watford operator said that the express was coming. Thinking that the freight, if it were permitted to go on to Wanstead, might further delay the express, the despatcher avers that he said to Carson, the Watford operator, " May bust it "-meaning the order. At almost the same time Operator Warson at Wyoming reported: "Freight pulling

"All right, let her go," replied the despatcher. The latter then called CARson, who, having heard only the words bust it " of the remark " May bust it, at once destroyed the order to No. 5 and allowed that train to proceed. On learning of this misunderstanding of his instructions the despatcher called up Operator Warson at Wyoming and told him to hold the freight. But it was then too late; the freight had gone. It will be seen, therefore, that the express left Watford with its engineer supposing himself to have a clear track to Wyoming, while the engineer of the freight held orders giving him a clear track to

Wanstead.

The newspaper reports show that the operator at Watford, who cancelled the order to the express on the strength of his understanding of the remark above quoted, is held responsible by the railroad officials for the disaster. They declare, it is said, that the despatcher's words " May bust it " should have conveyed to Carson the meaning, " May possibly 'bust' or destroy it," and that there was no plausible excuse either for his failure to hear the whole phrase or for his misinterpretation thereof. As to this view of the matter opinions will differ. It is probable, we believe, that four operators out of five would have soisely as Carson did under the

ances, whether they had heard

The point of the matter, however, this: Should the lives of people travelli on railroads, and particularly on singletrack railroads, be endangered by such slipshod methods as those now prevailing among despatchers? No reason is apparent why the " may-bust-it " ex pression should have been made at all, unless the despatcher intended it for a command.

A little more than a year ago a wreci on the Wabash Railway in Michigan, in which between sixty and sevent; persons were killed and a hundred in jured, was caused by the failure of an engineer to see, or the neglect of a despatcher to transmit, two words of an order, which changed its meaning completely. Many other serious railroad accidents in America have been due to causes very similar to the two in question Effective steps should be taken imme diately to render impossible fatal misunderstandings like those in the past between operators and trainmen.

#### The Governor's Inaugural.

The policy to be accomplished by Governor ODELL during the new term upon which he enters to-day can be perhaps more surely grasped through a contem plation of the leading ideas found in his inaugural address than by a labored perusal of the text proper, which is printed in another column of this morning's SUN. A careful study of the document enables us to lay before the public the subjoined abridgment, which we believe presents every noticeable thought:

"The administration of our laws with equity and ustice not only vouchsales the rights that hav ome to us, but is a guarantee of their permanene and of a future which is bound to be greater that our pest."

" Capital and labor should never be antagonistic " Law and order are the foundations of peace appiness and prosperity."

Taxation . . . should . . . be so so to be of the least burden while producing th greatest possible benefit."

"The farmer is deserving of support and er ouragement.

"The laboring man should be protecte njoyment of his rights and privileges." " Equal rights to all should be our motto.

The commerce which has always marked th progress of our State it should be our effort t

"The education of our children . . eceive our first thought."

" life, with all its problems, presenting so man and varied phases, brings to us experience." "There should be no classes, no distinction

" The lives of our great men remind us of the

That the Legislature, Republican in both branches, will intelligently second the Governor in these views on administering the affairs of the Empire State

we can have not the slightest doubt. "Publicity" in an Extra Dry Light

The meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Science is bringing out some net truths, stated with scientific precision and exhibited in what Mr Justice OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES Would call a "dry light."

The address of the chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Hon. MARTIN A. KNAPP of Syracuse, puts the question of enforced publicity for the business affairs of private porations in a very dry light indeed, if by dry we understand the absence of the various saccharines of sentimenta political economy.

Only one evil has yet been alleged by any trust-repressing philosopher as re quiring for its correction a system of publicity enforced by Federal inquisition. This is the evil of overcapitalization. Mr. KNAPP's clean-cut reasoning narrows down the possible benefits to be derived from enforced publicity by eliminating, first, the consumer of trustmade products, who, as he shows, buys at the same price whether the securities outstanding are greater or less than the assets of the corporation from which he purchases; secondly, the ordinary creditor, who certainly ought not to look to the Federal Government for the information he needs in his ordinary business, and, thirdly, the stockholder in the corporation itself. The stockholder's right to knowledge of the affairs of the concern is not denied. but Mr. KNAPP points out that such knowledge is a radically different thing from the general publicity contemplated by the advocates of Federal inquisition. Indeed, the interests of the actual stockholder would manifestly be injured rather than promoted by opening the books of the concern to competitors and to the general public. This leaves as the only possible beneficiaries of Government-enforced publicity the intending investor and the speculator in the securities of the corporation or trust. Of the proposal to legislate specially for the advantage of these persons Mr. KNAPP forcibly remarks:

" Just why we should undertake to protect those who are seeking investments or engaged in specu lation has not been shown to my satisfaction. I do not perceive the necessity or the propriety of such legislation. I regard it at best as a doubtful experiment, not likely to accomplish a useful purpose and quite certain to have a mischlevous outcome. "To begin with, the total number of perso who own stocks of any sort is a small fraction o the people. I doubt if there is one in fifty. If the inquiry is confined to those holding stocks in con cerns claimed to be overcapitalized, we shall fine that they are exceedingly small in number. It from these we deduct the purely speculative pur chasers, the stock gamblers, the remainder wil

be very nearly a negligible quantity. " If we look in another direction and try to dis sover how many there are seeking legitimate in vestments who are liable to be misled or deceived solely on account of a fictitious issue of shares. w shall round up only the most insignificant number often the victime of outrageous deception. Many a prospectus is filled with fraudulent statement respecting the value of corporate property, and groundless promises of large dividends and rapidly

"But the fraud consists in false represen of property and decettful assurances of gain, no in the mere circumstance that assets of little or po value are capitalized in millions instead of dellars."

And he continues, with a logical persistence which leads up to this fine specimen of reduction to absurdity:

"Leaving out the speculator and taking count only those seeking honest investments, ten times more appare, to say the least, has been sunk

the whole of the phrase or only a in farm morigages, suburban lots, passes rights buying and seiling grain, cotton and other comven existed, than was ever lest on account of the Settilogs or excessive lance of corporate so If the State is to assume the function of keeping folly and capidity from paying twice or ten time what a thing is worth it surely should assume he guardianship of the largest numbers and th

We commend this and the rest of the Hop. MARTIN AUGUSTINE KNAPP'S remarkable paper on publicity to the close attention of the Hon. CHARLES E. LITTLE-FIELD of Maine, the Hon. JESSE OVER-STREET of Indiana, the Hon. SAMUEL L. Powers of Massachusetts, the Hon DAVID A. DE ARMOND of Missouri and the Hon. HENRY D. CLAYTON of Alabama These gentlemen, as the House Judiciary Committee's special sub-committee on trust legislation, are at present the custodians of various measures intended to institute, under the Interstate Commerce clause of the Constitution, the system of Federal inquisition whereof the chairman of the Interstate Commerc Commission demonstrates so beautifully the foolish needlessness.

The Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is another states. man and philosopher who may profitably sit for a few minutes at the Hon MARTIN A. KNAPP'S feet.

It may be that not all the gentlemen of the sub-committee on trust legislation require the dose of logic and common sense which Mr. KNAPP administers Some of them, we believe, are already nearly or quite free from hysteria on the subject. But a careful perusal of this address will do none of them harm; it ought to do Mr. LITTLEFIELD good, if anything can.

#### The Jewish Question

The intense conviction and passionate earnestness which are behind the Zionist movement of the Jews were manifested in two letters from Jews printed by us yesterday. Because we had called attention to the remarkable, indeed, extraordinary circumstance that at a meeting in the East Side Ghetto, populated almost exclusively by Jews of recent or comparatively recent immigration from Eastern Europe, a prominent rabbi of American birth was hissed vigorously for opposing the new Jewish sentiment, our two correspondents rushed to accuse us of attacking the position of the Zionite Jews.

In truth, we look on the contemporary Zionist movement as, in many respects the most significant in the history of the Jews since the Dispersion, and, possibly, the most hopeful. It also has a peculiar interest for those Christian interpreters of the Biblical prophecies who look on the return of the Jews to Palestine as an event positively foretold by Scriptural inspiration and therefore inevitable. Whether the congregation of any great or considerable part of the race in the Holy Land is practicable in the present condition of the world is, however, a matter regarding which both Jews and Christians differ. Whether it can be proved to be for the interest of enough of the ten or eleven million Jews of the world to emigrate from the countries where they now are to set up a State which will command respect by its financial and moral power, is a practical question, to be considered, not passionately but coolly: and that it will be dis cussed in that spirit by the representatives of the race on whom the movement must depend for a successful issue

is unquestionable. Dr. SILVERMAN does not believe in the feasibility of Zionism, and in his scenticism he represents very many of the more prosperous Jews of this country and of Europe, or those described by one of our correspondents as of the "Golden Ghetto," " selfish and vulgar, ignorant and sensuous." Mr. ISAAC ZANGWILL, in his notable study of Jewish life and characteristics in his novel " Children of the Ghetto," treats in a somewhat similar spirit the prosperous Jews of London. The same correspondent attributes to the " jargon Jews," the Yiddish-speaking Jews, the possession of " the intellectual force of the latter-day Judaism." and much evidence seems to support the assertion. Among them, at least, seems to be a preponderance of the enthusiasm and definite conviction of Judaism at this time. Some of the ablest men of the race intellectually, men of worldwide distinction, are most earnest in pushing the Zionite propaganda. Among the officers elected by the last Congress of Zionists, at Basle, for example, were Dr. THEODOR HERZL, Dr. MAX NORDAU and Sir FRANCIS MONTEFIORE.

Even among the " Golden Ghetto," as our correspondent describes the rich Jews about Dr. SILVERMAN'S temple. in Fifth avenue, are some, if not many, who seem to be deeply and favorably impressed by the revival of Jewish spirit indicated by the Zionist movement. That many hard-headed Jewish financiers in this country are disposed to look on the scheme of colonizing Palestine as a practicable business undertaking does not seem to be indicated by any information we have received or any considerable expression of opinion from them of

which we have heard. Dr. MAX NORDAU, at the last Congress of Zionists, spoke of the Jews as " incomparably the poorest of all the peoples in the world," and, undoubtedly, the description is justified as concerns a very great part of the ten million Jews of the world; but in this country the race had prospered exceedingly up to the time of the vast immigration from eastern Europe which began within recent years and is now continuing at an undiminished if not an increasing rate. Their rapid progress in finance, commerce, trade and the professions has been too obvious to need particular demonstration here. The new immigrants bring with them poverty, but they also are making rapid progress in their material condition. In the East Side Ghetto there is a very considerable accumulation of private wealth, as the banks and trust companies containing the deposits of the district bear incontestable witness, and as the long succession of busy marts of trade proves to even the casual observer. This advancing prosperity will be more potent in breaking up the Ghetto

any merely spoken arguments against the concentration of the race there, such as are made by Dr. SILVERMAN; at that the maximum rate will prevail least, graduation thence to the " Golden Ghetto" will be steady and in the

aggregate it will be large. As to the use of the Yiddish jargon reprobated by the Fifth Avenue rabbi and defended by our correspondent, it will pass out under the pressure of influences which it cannot resist. English speaking is, of course, a necessity to the successful pursuit of business in New York. As Jewish children are educated in the public schools, in which they are so apt and diligent scholars, they will turn from Yiddish speech totally in the course of a few generations, if not in a single generation; and with the disuse of the jargon a main barrier of distinction will be thrown down. It is the experience of non-English-speaking foreigners settling here, generally, that their children are assimilated rapidly as Americans by the public schools, and the foreign language of their parents becomes strange to them, to the extent of estabishing a separation between the two often much resented by the parents The jargon Jews will not escape from this transformation of the younger gen-

If the miserably poor and ill-treated lews of Russia and of eastern Europe generally, or any considerable part of them, could be colonized in Palestine under conditions which would assure to them greater material prosperity both they and society as a whole would be benefited. At present the tendency of Jewish immigration to this country in large volume introduces a serious social and industrial problem, the solution of which is perplexing the most thoughtful of the race already established here. New York has become the great city of he world in which Jews are most numer ous, they making up more than half a million of the population, and in the whole United States there are near! a million and a half. If the immigration of the race continues at its present rate, he time is near at hand when in New

fork alone they will number a million. Undoubtedly, if this contemporary exodus from the great Jewish centre in eastern Europe continues on the scale of he last twenty years, an outlet for it in Palestine would be desirable. But will hey go to the Holy Land under any other inspiration than a desire to improve their condition, and has the Zionte scheme yet justified itself practically by proving that the race will have in Palestine peculiar advantages? If proposed railway schemes shall be carried out, so as to bring a large population within reach of profitable markets for their products, Palestine colonization on large scale may become practicable but until then it seems to be a dream which takes hold of the Jewish imagination rather than of the cool practical sense which is so distinguishing a mark

At any rate, it is not a question to be argued with the heat of passion, but calmly and reasonably. Meantime the Jews, in this country, more especially, seem to be getting on too well to be attracted thence by the appeal of Zionism to their imaginations.

## Thrashers and Farmers.

We gave an account the other day of he organization at Indianapolis of the American Society of Equity of North America, which seeks to be a national farmers' trust. There was already in existence the Farmers' National Cooperative Exchange, which was incorporated in South Dakota last summer and has headquarters in Chicago. The object of the Exchange is a combination of the agricultural interests of the country for the purpose of buying and selling grain, provisions and live stock, and the construction and operation of elevators, warehouses, stock vards and so on.

To a certain extent, and especially in the matter of warehouses and elevators, the means to be used by the Exchange are similar or identical with those of the Society; and the officers of the former have already proposed consolidation with the latter. The essential part of the Society's plan, however, is a union of the farmers in insisting upon their own prices, a minute and accurate system of crop reports enabling an equitable minimum price to be set upon each product. Of course the " equitable minimum price " is a term intended to relieve the apprehensions of the consumer. The highest attainable maximum price will be demanded. As the president of the Society of Equity says frankly, the farmers are the first hands, and if they will ask profitable prices for their products and then through cooperation stand together, they can get any price they care to put upon them." projectors of the Indianapolis trust believe that they have hit upon the only feasible means of organizing the producers; and they hold that the Chicago-

Dakota method is insufficient. Meanwhile, the necessity of some sort of a farmers' trust for the purpose of self-defence, if no other, is being taught sharply enough. A despatch to the St. Louis Republic from Carlyle, Ill. describes a strong "combine" which means to pinch the farmers next fall. This is the Thrashermen's National Protective Association, which is said to have 40,000 members throughout the country and to be adding to its membership rapidly every week. In every State where thrashermen are numerous organizers are at work. Thus, branch associations have been formed in 74 of the 102 counties of Illinois, and by spring the thrashermen in every county will be in the trust. In the fall the screws will be tightened. Higher prices will be asked for thrashing and the " cutthroat ' thrasher will be " frozen out." For example, in Clinton county, Ill., last year many farmers got their wheat thrashed for 21/2 cents; others at 31/2, and the maximum was 4. The rate for oats was 11/2 to 2 cents. The trust means to root out the " 11/2-cent oats man " and the " 21/2cent wheat man." Naturally the organizers of the trust disclaim any intention of " running up prices on the farmers. They are merely trying to establish a uniform scale "and " eliminate pricecutting." And naturally the farmers

blandly admits his inclination to think The manufacturers of thrashing machines are supposed to be behind the

The farmers are growing nervous Some of them talk about boycotting the members of the trust. But a thrashing trust of their own is the obvious remedy. Fight trust with trust. Every trust which pinches the farmer increases his need of a farmers' trust. At the same time his knowledge of the success of combination in other businesses makes him consider if it cannot be applied to his business. Both as a shield and as a sword, the trust principle begins to commend itself to his judgment.

an unfit man for the office of Tax Commis-sioner. The demand for his dismissal was urgent: it was incessant; it was over whelming. It was all made by that cleanhanded and ascetic statesman, the Hon TIMOTHY WOODRUFF, who in Brooklyn and in the State at large reverberates virtue, moral purity and the Ten Commandments. There was a singular and stubborn resist ance to the annihilation of ATTERBURY but Woodburr surmounted it. He is terrible in the polemics of politics, fertile in resource, ruthless in pursuit, and none may withstand him. Was it out of the chaste domesticity of a Henley houseboat urtured at the Waldorf-Astoria and rereshed by the breezes of the Adirondacks, that a modern Aspasia moved on the quarry We are sorry for ATTERBURY. He is an honest man and a gentleman. He deserved a better fate. But who can stand against the MacHiavelli of the Gowanus?

The "Octopus " jobbers buy many men and many influences. There is one—we will stake our reputation on it—who cannot be bought, and he is Governor ODELL.—Grocery Prospectus. This clumsy but well-meaning

rould like to be taken for his idol's organ which would embarrass the idol beyond endurance.

The many reports of Mr. ADDICES'S have ing won the last election of a legislator in Delaware by the use of money, even if true don't cover the whole ground. Were Mr. ADDICES's present legislative strength above suspicion respecting the use of money t would still be impossible for any Republican inside of Delaware to vote to make him Senator, or, outside, to give him aid and comfort. The Addicks platform from the beginning has been, "ADDICES or nobody," and it would be a fatal compromise of partisanship to help him to success

TOPERA, Dec. 28.—Northeastern Kansas horti-culturists who sent their pear crop into cold storage last fall are now in clover. When the crop was picked pears were worth \$4.50 a barrel. Now they are worth \$6 and the price is still advancing. Sev-eral farmers have made from \$3,000 to \$5,000 each by holding their pears.—Kansas City Journal. Shrewd Sunflowers. If they had happened to agree and combine to hold their pears for higher prices would their com-bination have been nefarious and against public policy?

#### England's New Boller Policy.

The British Admiralty is about to take a new departure by installing in the six new cruisers of the Devonshire type batteries cylindrical and of water-tube boilers, and in so doing will follow the example set by Germany in her battleships and cruisers. Hitherto the British war vessels have had boilers of one or the other type, either all cylindrical or all water-tube. The idea of the new step is to provide for cruising purposes boilers which work economically at normal speed and for high speeds, necessary at unusual times, those which can most promptly meet the call upon them. The latter, water-tube boilers, will be used only when the exigencies of the service call for more than cruising speed, while the cylindrical boilers will be used regularly, and even when the water-tube boilers are

in action.

Mr. George Halliday, who describes the ence to the American Navy, comparing our new cruisers Tennessee and Washington with the British Powerful and Duke of Edinburgh. "The two American cruisers," he notes, "are to be of 15.959 tons' displacement, heavier than any of our battleships save four, and are to carry four 10-inch guns. The weak point of the United States Navy is speed, and these new cruisers could not capture the Deutschland; but in all other respects they outclass any cruiser in the British Navy. Should the Duke of Edinburgh fail in the matter of speed, as all the other cruisers have done, then the cruisers of Great B itain are outclassed indeed, and the United States will have gained one point toward a first-class, superior navy."

## A Bigger Navy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Talk is cheap If our country is going to uphold the Monroe Doc trine against the decided opinions of the Euro peans, the bluff won't always work as easy as I has in the past.

If our politicians would set aside their horse play in talking to the galleries, get together and

unite on securing peace and safety by the estab-lishment of ways and means for the common defence, our prosperity, peace and happiness would be secured to our children's children

# TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: 1 am not

Saturday "nighter," but a Wednesday "nighter, for the opera season and previous seasons, an consider many of the performances recently given second rate. I also attended the Bridewell fiasco It was an insult to an indulgent public. Miss Bride well is unsuited for such a rôle, and it was a pain well is unsuited for such a rôle, and it was a pain-ful ordeal through which she passed that evening. The company is weak in tenor and contraits voices, no matter what the Heroid may say. If "Alia" is put on as it is in Europe—according to the declaration of the new stage manager the operas would be—why, let us have the old man-agement and not try to brace up the pampas grass in the triumphal scene with second-hand peacock feathers. The costumes of the chorus would sug-gest that they had escaped from our friend Mas-cagni's troupe.

CRANK.

## New Development of the City Church.

There has developed the institutional church You should visit one of these enterprises when full fledged. You enter wide open doors, which intro-duce you into an institution resembling the modern department store. You are in the midst of many apartments, in which are carried on the divers departments of work. The educational department extends the privi-

leges of leagues, literary circles, tract co-sions, libraries, reading rooms, music c mothers' meetings, classes in voice culture, history printing, bookkeeping, &c. The recreation depart ment offers the opportunities of free excursions stays in the country; entertainment bureau, amuse ments, games, concerts, clubs, classes in calls thenics and physical culture, military organizations, baths and a well-equipped symnasium. The industrial department comprehends carpentry, chaliransking, sloyd system, kitchen garden cooking school, sewing classes, &c. In the benevo lent department you find day nurseries, kindergartens, dispensaties and Dorcas societies. The relief department furnishes laundries, woodyards, tallor shops, boarding houses, coal clubs, societies ments, games, concerts, clubs, classes in call renet department formishes laundries, woodyards tailor shops, boarding houses, coal clubs, societies for legal and medical advice, employment bureau &c. The benedicary department offers the ad-vantages of a loan association, the provident loar society or the penny provident fund, &c.

McClure's Magazine for January is notable for three articles especially: Mr. Lincoln Steffens's "The Shame of Minneapolis;" Miss Ida Tarbell's story of the oil war of 1872, in her history of the Standard Oil Company, and Mr. Ray Stannard Baker's "The Right to Work." the story of the miners who did not strike. Other interesting conions are by Clara Morris, Samuel Hopkins may not be named here for lack of space

Sandow's Magazine, which begins wit the Jan uary number of 1903, has for its first article one on Mr. Sandow, Mrs. Sandow and the baby, and the second is on the Appalachian Forest Reserve. It as a distinct and exclusive quarter than | foresee 4 cents for the wheat rate and

SUBNORMAL CHILDREN. The Case of the Pechic-10

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Is spite of the good will that prevails among the enlightened in regard to the waifs an strays of the world, there are certain children whose claims to consideration are only partially recognized. These are the psycho-asthenics, as they are called, the ble-minded. In them there is some primary arrest of brain development, or later shrinking of mind. They are subnormal children, divided roughly into three broad classes, known as backward children, as imbeciles, as idiots, according to their degree of mental idevelopm The old-fashioned term, feeble-minded includes them all. They range from those who are but slightly less intelligent than ordinary children to the complete idiot who leads the life of a vegetable and merely eats, breathes, and sleeps. In the United States over ten years ago there were on record nearly 93,000 persons in this plight. No doubt their number is far greater, as family pride and domestic ignorance con trive to evade the census. For every feeble minded child there exist about five who are slightly behindhand in mental develop

ment, yet capable of catching up at some

if educated for a time apart and along

What constitutes a backward or deficien

How can you tell one when you

later stage with their brighter brethrer

different lines.

see it? Not in any offhand way; yet there s something that stamps the child as different from his fellows. The lack of command over himself suggests illness to the inexperienced. Some, perhaps many, of the stigmata of degeneration may be present, physical signs of imperfection lead the observer to infer the quality of the individual. The roof of the mouth may be high and narrow, the teeth irregular and misshapen, the lobe of the ear attached to the side of the head, the arms too long in proportion to bodily height, of the hands and feet may show abnormities of structure. At the same time it must be remembered that it is not how a child looks that classifies him, but what he does, what he is, what he loves and seeks. This gauge of personality can be discovered readily enough by comparing any child's history, his progress and development, with the records of attainment of babies kept during the past twenty-five years. In this way what the average child does at differen periods of its existence has been ascertained. Children whose powers do not unfold in the usual fashion during infancy are apt to show some deficiency later on For instance, the normal child is sensitive to light when a day or two old, starts when gently touched at the third day, tastes a the end of the first week, and strong odors cause contortions during the first hours o life. Food, bath, objects about him please during the first month; tears overtake the baby when three weeks old, and smiles come shortly after. Music charms during the second month; then consonants are used for the first time; tickling causes laughter, and objects can be clasped by four fingers. At four months the baby begins to imitate; sits up at the sixth, stands without support at the ninth, and walks at the age of fifteen months. At this period he also laughs, smiles, gives a kiss, repeats syllables and understands a number of words. From the twentieth to the twenty-fourth month he executes orders on command, tries to sing, bear time, dance to music. At the age of : he child walks upstairs unaided and speaks

distinctly. He begins to ask questions. The sub-normal child has not develope in this way. "He is different," say the parents. That sums up the whole situation. Different from the normal. Out of the 500,000 children now attending the public schools there are reported to be about 8,500 who are in some sense deficient, deective, or feeble-minded. Just the true proportion of inherent mental defect among this number is not given Many children who appear hopelessly dull brighten up wonderfully when troubles with the nose and throat are cured, and other when eyesight is raised to the natural standard by the use of glasses. And deaf children profit by special private instruction, after a time returning to their right-ful grades in class work and continuing with comrades of their own age, through

high school and college.

The feeble-minded in his crude, original state can never be counted on to remain harmless. His make-up is irregular, ful of unclassified explosives, that may transorm potential energy into erratic festations of evil at any moment well-known fact that among the causes which produce a criminal life on of the most important is the mental and physical inferiority of the offender. He is not up to the average human standard: and any measures calculated to avert fu-ture misconduct must include as far as possible the overcoming of physical de-fects. Unaided, the feeble-minded is always incapable of guiding himself aright, owing to radical defects of will, of atten-tion, and of judgment. Society as yet refuses to assume the full responsibility of his care. This neglect has for a result and any measures calculated to avert for hideous crimes every year committed by this unfortunate class.

Dark as is the picture of the neglected psycho-asthenic, there are instances of those who have been rescued by care. An interesting group known as idiots savants comprise many persons of restricted mind who have shown unusual aptitude for some special mental activity or quality Among them are the wonderful lightning clever artists, and the court jesters of the middle ages. In the galleries of Europe there are to-day valued pictures by Mind, known as the "Cat's Raphael." And in music, Blind Tom is a prominent example of special ability. It is said that he remembered and could play some five thousand musical compositions heard at different times. Though never able to talk spontaneously, making only inarticulate sounds, he could repeat whatever was said to him in any language, whether in Greek.

to him in any language, whether in Greek, French, Latin or German.

The education of the feeble-minded lies essentially along the line of the development of the senses. The psycho-asthenics are in their forlorn condition because they have feeble senses; because touch, taste. have feeble senses; because touch, taste smell, sight, hearing are not up to the normal standard. The external means normal standard. The used to develop each special sense are found in expressions of form, sound, color

implies in the way of games, little feats of dexterity, household duties, of running, jumping, climbing, of systematized move-ments and calisthenics, give poise by increasing courage, will power, self-control and the social instinct. They teach the sub-normal child to stand and breather better, an immense gain to mind; and they also improve the circulation, upon which vigor depends. The feeble-minded tre fond of music, as a rule; can often str.g, even when unable to talk, and play upon some musical instrument. Creative activities such as weaving basket making tivities, such as weaving, basket making knitting, every-day work in the house-hold, gardening and carpentry are all invaluable aids in the task of waking up invaluable aids in the task of waking up mind. Color in the various decorations and objects about the room and out of doors, in costume, in blocks, balls, toys, in plants, flowers, in rock, tree, grass and sky, all send messages to the brain that will later be translated as thought. The ingenuity of teachers supplies variety and devises elaboration of the few definite principles by which individual development is accomplished. Reading and writ-ing are chiefly useful as amusements, as sources of real recreation. They are not desirable for all, and for very few of the feeble-minded do they ever become tools or a means of further development. For

best, and work done with the typewriter instead of ordinary writing with a pen.

Animals as pets, flowers as a delight, companions of similar mental capacity, regardless of age and size, friends, teachers, attendants, physicians, help the feeble-minded to discover himself and to find his own world. He is gently led from one activity to another all day long. He learns how to laugh, to weep and to work to think his own thoughts, as far as he has thoughts, and to perform all the little commonplace acts of life in the ordinary, commonplace way. Wise guidance in the majority of instances will render him at least in part self-supporting and happy. But the requires superhuman energy from teachers.

The task of humanizing the feeble-minded is carried on in a somewhat sporadic fashion throughout the country. About 6 per

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is carried on in a somewhat sporadic manion throughout the country. About 6 per cent. are now cared for in special institutions. There are at present only sixteen States in the Union that provide custodial care for them. New York has two institutions; so has New Jersey. The other fourteen States that are up to date in this matter are California, Washington. in this matter are California, Washington, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. In Providence and Boston there are special schools for sub-normal children connected with the regular public school

Germany is one step in advance of this. There all would-be pupils are sent at once to regularly appointed school physicians for inspection. The candidate is weighed and measured; his heart and lungs are examined, and the special senses are testac. The true conditions of hearing, of eyesight, of smell, of touch, of taste are discovered and recorded, and the calibre of mind carefully noted. The pupil is then placed in the particular grade for which his natural equipment fits him. He goes to his own place, as far as human intelligence can define it, and thus the ends of justice are fairly well met. The teacher is in this way relieved of a burden that is quite outside his special province. And the child is spared the infliction of a misfit teacher. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the German school physicians have organized themselves into an association for the study Germany is one step in advance of this themselves into an association for the study of the problems encountered in their line of work. Data concerning children that differ from the normal thus promise to become more exact. Work under supervision and an existence

Work under supervision and an existence in the main apart from the world at large, whether at home or in an institution, according to the requirements of the case, constitute the only remedy known for the evils that grow out of feeble-mindedness. The victim must be trained, and always guarded. England, Germany, Belgium have each colved the difficulty in part by establishing special auxiliary classes, ungraded schools, where sub-normal children receive what is really private instruction based upon their

where sub-normal children receive what is really private instruction based upon their individual needs. Boston and Providence have also their special ungraded schools, where teachers are successfully engaged in rescuing from inertia and idleness whole companies of children, who are learning to do useful things in the society of their equals. The question in Boston concerning the location of these special schools has at no time presented the proportions of a problem. A portable schoolhouse erected in the yards of the ordinary public school building, well lighted, well heated shelters these children while they are being fitted for their proper sphere in life. Close by, at Waverly, Mass., is the celebrated State institution that sphere in life. Close by, at Waverly, Mass., is the celebrated State institution that is embodies in its equipment all of the most modern educational and hygienic advantages essential to the welfare to the sub-normal child. An industrial farm at Baldwinville, for the graduates from the institution at Waverly, serves to continue these healthful efforts in behalf of the grownup psycho-asthenic, who there finds a up psycho-asthenic, who there finds happy home, cheerful and healthful cupations, and the wise restraint that prevents him from becoming a criminal Money spent on the sub-normal child during his early years is in every sense

on economic measure.

One of the problems of the twentieth century is to find out the place of the feebleminded. That they should be educated is the opinion of those fitted to judge in the matter. While it is impossible to eradicate a weakness which is theirs by heredity, nearly all sub-normal children can be educated to a control of the control of nearly all sub-normal children can be edu-cated to a surprising degree, and their usefulness and happiness increased to a wonderful extent. One has only to visit an institution where they are trained ra-tionally to realize this fact. The feeble-minded claim, therefore, the same privi-lege that belongs to every child in this republic, which is cheerfully granted to other defectives. No one challenges to other defectives. No one challenges the right of the blind to an education which will fit them for a sphere of usefulness. Justice demands the same care and con-sideration for mentally deficient children.

equally helpless and equally blameless for their misfortune. All there is of power, all there is of religion, of statecraft, science, must inevi-tably take part sooner or later in the im-mediate care and training of the sub-normal child. Cheering is the thought that the future holds forth highest hope concerning the redemption of the "least of these." Even now the spirit of religion is beginning to be harnessed to the work of the world to be harnessed to the work of the world and tasks hitherto disregarded acquire dignity and moment

LOUISE FISER BRYSON, M. D.

## PREDICTIONS FOR 1993.

# The Chart of the Heavens as Erected by

a Young Astrologer. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The following are the "coming events" for January and as a young American astrologer I write to inform and warn that the stars in dicate and impart to me the fact that some great calamity is indicated to occur to Uncle Sam's naval vessels during Jan. 1, 2 and 3, almost similar to the destruction of the ill fated Maine. Yet the greatest evil is indicated to occur on the 2d in the afternoon and it appears to me that it will be at or through the hands of some inferior foreign Power, and it will be well for our Navy Department to be more than usually precau tious and to warn all naval commanders to guard against foreign treachery. On these dates, it is also indicated that we shall hear of some unusually large ocean and some unusually great trouble is indicated

for the press and clergy, and a great epidemic is strongly indicated to occur.

Some great trouble is also indicated to

epidemic is strongly indicated to occur.

Some great trouble is also indicated to occur to President Roosevelt during Jan.

4.5, 9, 10 and 20; vet I trust that nothing very serious will befull him. However, it will be well for our Chief Executive to guard against mental troubles, rashness, impetuosity, mistakes, and guard himself both in speech and actions, and not trust his friends too far; and he should strongly guard against secret enemies; otherwise, I find that plots and schemes will be laid for his downfall; and he should guard against serious trouble to his knees.

We shall experience a siege of remarkably cold weather during January, and it will prove to be the coldest January in history.

During January some serious calamity is indicated to befall the King of England, on or about the 7th, in particular, and his Royal Highness should guard against accident or trouble similar to that which befell our late lamented and much-beloved President, William McKinley, for, in erecting a chart of the heavens for England, I find that the evil planet Uranus is posted on the mid-heaven, or in the tenth mansion of the heavens, which was also posted on the mid at the time that President McKinley was assassinated, and the tenth mansion governs Presidents, Kings, rulers and the Government, and presages some serious calamity to either the ruler of that Government or to the Government, and England will suffer from adverse weather, which will throw thousands of her tollers out of employment, and there will be much dire distress in that land, and starvation there will be unusually large. London will experience great fires, attended by fixtal results, great loss of life and the destruction of valuable property.

Germany and France will be uneasy and the tranu of soldiers and the manshalling of property.

Germany and France will be uneasy and the tramp of soldiers and the marshalling of

Ireland will be the scene of many moonlight crimes and serious outrages.

China will present a scene of turmoil, and
unlucky Spain will be in a ferment

I trust that much benefit will be derived
through my advice, which I feel sure it will
be if same is seriously and carefully heeded.
HOBOKEN, Dec. 27 GUSTAVE MEYER.

of 18.

# What Will its Luck Be?-Strange Incidents

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: Will 1908 be a ucky or an unlucky year? It contains the number 13, and all the figures added amount to 18. In the nonths of February, March and Nove